

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 02707 031611Z
ACTION SS-25

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-----105099 031614Z /46
O 031422Z MAR 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6879
INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 2707

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL TRIP: DRAFT STATEMENTS FOR KANO

REF: STATE 048397

1. THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS CONTAIN DRAFT REMARKS PREPARED BY
CONSULATE KADUNA, AND APPROVED BY THE EMBASSY, FOR THE USE OF
THE PRESIDENT UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN KANO (PARAS 2 AND 3), AND
FOR HIS LUNCHEON IN KANO.

2. DRAFT AIRPORT ARRIVAL STATEMENT: BEGIN QUOTE
GOVERNOR BELLO, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE VISITING KANO. UNFORTUNATELY, MY
SCHEDULE IS SUCH THAT I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SPEND AS MUCH TIME
HHERE AS I WOULD LIKE. GENERAL OBASANJO HAS ARRANGED FOR
ME TO SEE AN EXHIBITION OF THE FINE HORSEMANSHIP OF NORTHERN
NIGERIA AT A DURBAR, TO MEET HIS HIGHNESS, THE EMIR OF
KANO, AND TO VISIT THE KADAWA AGRICULTURAL PROJECT. I HOPE ALSO
TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW THE ANCIENT WALLS OF YOUR CITY.

3. I PARTICULARLY VALUE THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME HERE
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TODAY AS THIS STOP PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE AN
HISTORIC CITY WITH RICH ISLAMIC CULTURE AND TRADITIONS.
KANO IS ALSO, I UNDERSTAND, A BOOMING COMMERCIAL AND
INDUSTRIAL TOWN AND THE CENTER OF THE RICH AGRICULTURAL
AREA OF NORTHERN NIGERIA. I EXPECT TO HAVE AN EXCITING
AND INTERESTING DAY HERE. THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING OUT
HERE AND AFFORDING ME SUCH A WARM AND HOSPITABLE WELCOME.

END QUOTE.

4. DRAFT LUNCHEON TOAST: BEGIN QUOTE:

YOUR EXCELLENCIES, YOUR HIGHNESSES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:
I HAVE JUST SPENT A MOST INTERESTING AND ENJOYABLE MORNING FLYING
ACROSS YOUR GREAT AND FERTILE COUNTRY AND WITNESSING A MOST
VIVID AND IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY OF HORSEMANSHIP FOR WHICH
NORTHERN NIGERIA IS DESERVEDLY RENOWNED. HIS HIGHNESS,
THE EMIR, VERY GRACIOUSLY SHOWED ME THROUGH HIS
HISTORIC PALACE. IT HAS ALSO BEEN A PLEASURE TO MEET
COLONEL BELLO. IT IS NOT SO LONG AGO THAT I WAS IN HIS
POSITION -- GOVERNOR OF A BOOMING STATE IN WHICH PEANUT
PRODUCTION IS IMPORTANT. I SUSPECT THAT THE PROBLEMS AND
OPPORTUNITIES HE FACES ARE NOT TOO DIFFERENT FROM THOSE I
HAD SOME YEARS AGO IN GEORGIA.

5. I AM VERY GLAD THAT MY FRIEND, GENERAL OBASANJO, URGED
ME NOT TO CONFINE MY ACTIVITIES IN NIGERIA TO LAGOS ALONE.
THE TRIP TO KANO, A CITY WHERE A RICH HISTORY EXISTS AMID
MODERN COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, HAS BEEN WELL
WORTH MAKING. TODAY'S ACTIVITIES HAVE VIVIDLY DEMONSTRATED
TO ME THE CULTURAL, ECONOMIC AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY OF NIGERIA.

6. IN MANY RESPECTS NIGERIA AND THE UNITED STATES ARE VERY
SIMILAR. BOTH COUNTRIES ARE LARGE, FERTILE AND INHABITED
BY HARD-WORKING PEOPLE FROM MANY ETHNIC, CULTQ AL AND
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RELIGIOUS BACKGROUNDS. AS HISTORIANS CALCULATE, OUR TWO
COUNTRIES ARE FAIRLY YOUNG. NIGERIA AND THE UNITED STATES
ALIKE STILL HAVE MANY THINGS TO DO AT HOME AND ABORAD. I
BELIEVE THAT THE EFFORTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES CAN AND WILL BE
ENHANCED THROUGH THE MUTAL COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP SYM-
BOLIZED BY GENERAL OBASANJO'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES
LAST FALL AND NOW BY MY VISIT TO NIGERIA.

7. I CANNOT CONCLUDE THESE BRIEF REMARKS WITHOUT AGAIN
THANKING HIS HIGHNESS FOR THE VERY CORDIAL RECEPTION GIVEN
ME IN KANO AND FOR THE MAGNIFICENT DISPLAY OF HORSEMAN-
SHIP AT NYE DURBAR THIS MORNING. I HOPE YOU WILL CONVEY MY
GREETINGS AND APPRECIATION TO YOUR DISTRICT HEADS.
ANDY YOUNG TOLD ME QUITE A BIT ABOUT THE DURBAR HE ATTENDED
LAST YEAR IN KADUNA AND STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT I MAKE A
VISIT TO NORTHERN NIGERIA DURING MY TRIP. I FULLY UNDER-
STAND HIS ENTHUSIASM NOW.

8. PLEASE JOIN ME IN A TOAST TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE HEAD
OF STATE, TO MY HOSTS TODAY, THE GOVERNOR AND EMIR OF KANO,
AND TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA. END QUOTE.

9. SHOULD THE PRESIDENT WISH TO USE A HAUSA PHRASE HE
MIGHT USE A TRANSLATION OF 'I AM HAPPY TO BE WITH YOU' AS A
PENULTIMATE SENTENCE IN EITHER TEXT. WE ARE CHECKING THE
PHONETIC SPELLING FOR THE TRANSLATION, WHICH WOULD
APPROXIMATE 'INA MAI FARIN CIKI NA KE
TARE DU KU.'.
EASUM

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED WHITE HOUSE

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NNN

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